

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /107 W

----- 028476

R 111602Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5179

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, PFOR, EGEN, US, SU

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: IGG ON LEAST DEVELOPED - SUDAN STATEMENT

REF: KHARTOUM 1813

SUMMARY. FADL IDRIS ON HIS RETURN TO GENEVA FOR UNCTAD 15TH TDB, FAR FROM ADOPTING APOLOGETIC STANCE, ENTERED SCENE BREATHING FIRE. HE DEMANDED THE G-77 SUPPORT IN REJECTING THE U.S. PROTEST, MANAGED TO TIE UP LDC CAUCUS FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS (THUS DELAYING PLENARY MEETINGS) AND SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING A SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED G-77 ENDORSEMENT OF HIS STATEMENT IN THE IGG AND A BRUSQUE REPLY REJECTING AS IMPERTINENT THE U.S. PROTEST. THE QUESTION IS: NOW WHAT?

1. FADL IDRIS RETURNED TO GENEVA AS MEMBER FOUR-MAN SUDANESE DELEGATION (ALL DRAWN FROM MINISTRY OF FINANCE) AND IMMEDIATELY ENGAGED IN DRUMMING UP SUPPORT WITHIN G-77 FOR HIS STATEMENT IN IGG ON LEAST DEVELOPED, BASING HIS DEFENSE ON VASTLY CLEANED-UP VERSION F STATEMENT (AS RECORD OF MEETING)

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PREPARED IN THE INTERIM UNDER SUPERVISION OF GHANAIAAN

RAPPORTEUR. FOLLOWING TWO DAY VITRIOLIC DEBATING IN THE G-77 CAUCUS, DURING WHICH SOME MEETINGS OF BOTH PLENARY AND SESSION COMMITTEES HAD TO BE CANCELLED, IDRIS MANAGED TO OBTAIN QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT IN A REPLY TO THE U.S. MISSION OF HIS STATEMENT: "THE G-77 WISHES TO CONFIRM THAT THE DELEGATE OF SUDAN WAS SELECTED SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP AT THE MEETING OF THE UNCTAD IGG ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" AS WELL AS A BRUSQUE REJECTION OF THE U.S. NOTE: "THE G-77 CONSIDERS THAT THE (US) NOTE OF 25TH JULYIS IMPERTINENT AND UNACCEPTABLE AND HEREBY TOTALLY REJECTS ITS CONTENTS."

2. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY MEMBERS OF G-77 (PARTICULARLY AFRICAN) WISHED TO EMPLOY EVEN STRONGER LANGUAGE, BUT THE OTHER MEMBERS PREVAILED IN TONING DOWN LANGUAGE EVEN IF ONLY TO THIS EXTENT. IDRIS HIMSELF IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE WANTED MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF THE PROBLEM IN PLENARY OF THE BOARD, BUT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING OTHER MEMBERS OF G-77. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP D (EASTERN EUROPE) SOUGHT OUT U.S. DEL TO ASSURE HIM THAT IF IDRIS DID TAKE MATTER UP ON FLOOR, THE D GROUP WOULD SUPPORT U.S. MANY MEMBERS OF GROUP B, WHILE CHEERING THE U.S. ON, SHOWED DISINCLINATION TO BECOME INVOLVED. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS POINT THAT MATTER WILL ARISE AT THE BOARD, BUT THERE IS NOTHING PREVENTING IDRIS' RAISING THE ISSUE AGAIN IN PLENARY WHEN ITEM 7 IS DISCUSSED, POSSIBLY MONDAY MORNING.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MISSION WOULD WISH TO SHUT OFF DISCUSSION THIS PROBLEM, IT BELIEVES THAT THE G-77 NOTE WILL HAVE TO BE REPLIED TO, PREFERABLY LATE ENOUGH IN TDB SESSION TO PREVENT MATTER FROM AGAIN BECOMING ACTIVE. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE MISSION'S PROPOSED REPLY:

"THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THE NATURE OF THE REPLY IN NOTE 219 FROM THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77. WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THE VIEWS IN OUR NOTE OF JULY 25 AS VALID IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATION TO THE REMARKS AS ACTUALLY MADE BY THE GROUP OF 77 SPOKESMAN, SUDAN, AT THE MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON JULY 19. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT NOTE 220 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA ENDORSES THE STATEMENT IN ITS JUDICIOUSLY EDITED VERSION AS CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARY RECORDS. ON OUR PART, WE ALSO SEE NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN THAT VERSION AND ACCORDINGLY CONSIDER THE MATTER AS CLOSED."

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA06259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750276-1208
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750865/aaaacfbv.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KHARTOUM 1813
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD: IGG ON LEAST DEVELOPED - SUDAN STATEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, US, SU, UNCTAD, G-77
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006